

May 18, 1983

LB 17

doesn't make a great deal of sense to me. Admittedly, we would be taxing food for nine months. I would rather tax food for nine months than to force an increase in sales or income tax beyond that what we currently anticipate. I think this is a very poor move and I urge you to vote against this amendment to LB 17. The one point I would make about taxing food is that when Senator Labeledz and others carried the amendments that put the sales tax on for the City of Omaha and Senator Chambers at that point in time proposed amendments that would have required the cities to reimburse taxpayers for the tax on food so far as the city sales tax is concerned and those amendments were voted down very strongly and I am sure if my memory serves me correct that Senator Labeledz opposed all those amendments. So philosophically, taxing food is not such a sacrosanct kind of concept. Senator Labeledz didn't support Senator Chambers in his attempt at that point in time to eliminate the tax on food so far as city revenues were concerned, but now all of a sudden when we are talking about the State of Nebraska for nine months, it is a very holy kind of an issue. So I guess I don't understand why that is the case. I think that we should just allow food to be taxed for nine months, face that issue squarely, but avoid the other tax increases which are obviously going to be necessary if this amendment is passed.